God owns by private builders

†2464. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to allow the private traders to build godowns and store for foodgrains without any upper ceiling;

(b) if so, by when would Govenment permit the tranders to do so; and

(c) how many traders have already built godowns for foodgrains in the country and what capacity they have created during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Under the national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains approved by the Government, the private sector is encouraged to build storage capacities on Build-Own & Operate (BOO) basis in when they store and maintain foodgrains procured by Government agencies, for which they are entitled to storage charges.

(c) No godowns have been built under the scheme till date.

Deaths due to starvation and malnutrition

2365. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the deaths reported due to starvation and malnutrition during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) whether it would not be cheaper for Government to give free food to 10 per cent poorest instead of incurring cost to carry the foodgrains in the FCI godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No death due to starvation and malnutrition has been reported by the State Governments/ Union Territories.

(b) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.